

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 8, line 29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In certain embodiments, the reactive moiety is a thiol group or amino group. Either of these groups can be reacted with a suitable reagent to furnish product 35 (as shown in FIG. 12) that comprises thiol-reactive groups. The preferred thiol-reactive group is a dithio group. Thus, for example, where the reactive moiety is a thiol group, treatment with a reactive dithio-containing reagent furnishes a surface with reactive dithio groups. An exemplary transformation in this context employs 5,5'-dithio-bis(2-nitrobenzoic acid) ("DTNB"):

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 9, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Similarly, surface amino groups can be transformed into reactive dithio groups of product 35 by using other dithio-containing reagents known to react with amino groups. Illustrative of this variant is the transformation depicted below, where succinimidyl 3-(2-pyridyldithio)propionate ("SPDP") provides the dithio moiety:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 9, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, thiol-reactive dithio groups of product 35 were contacted with a thiol-containing fluorophore, Fl-SH, whereby the fluorescent moiety (Fl), is tethered to the surface through a formation of a disulfide bond in product 6 as shown in FIG. 2. The invention contemplates a wide range of thiol-containing fluorophores, which can be realized by modifying any fluorescent moiety (Fl) with a thiol group. For example, reduction of compounds of the formula Fl-S-S-Fl is a useful way to prepare Fl-SH. A particularly preferred Fl-SH prepared in this manner is dansyl-L-cysteine as described in Example 5 below:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 10, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Contacting any of the thiol-containing reagents described above with the thiol-reactive groups in product 35 immobilizes the fluorescent moiety Fl on the surface via formation of disulfide bonds.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 10, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In certain embodiments of the invention, the reactive moieties are transformed into thiol groups of product 34. The transformation occurs by any well-known synthetic route directed to removal of a protective group. For example, polyurethane comprising pendant protected thiol groups, can be deprotected to generate a polyurethane comprising pending thiol groups.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 11, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, thiol groups in product 34 are reacted with a thiol-reactive fluorophore, which results in the formation of disulfide bonds in product 6. The thiol-reactive fluorophore has a group capable of disulfide bond formation. Suitable thiol-reactive fluorophores include sulfenyl chlorides of general formula Fl-S-Cl and thiosulfonates of general formula Fl-S-SO<sub>3</sub>(C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl), each of which is capable of formally delivering a "Fl-S" moiety to surface thiol groups in product 34.